

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified patent application in view of the amendments above and the remarks following is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12 are in this case. Claims 1-3 and 5-9 have been rejected under § 102(b). Claims 4 and 10-12 have been rejected under § 103(a). Claim 1 has been objected to. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 11 and 12 have been canceled. Dependent claims 3, 4 and 7 have been amended. New independent claim 13 has been added.

The claims before the Examiner are directed toward a system board with a connector with two ports. One port faces outward at an exterior edge of the system board. The other port faces inward to the interior of the system board.

§ 102(b) Rejections – Meng ‘399

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 and 5-9 under § 102(b) as being anticipated by Meng, US Patent No. 6,231,399 (henceforth, “Meng ‘399”). The Examiner’s rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 have been canceled, thereby rendering moot the Examiner’s rejection of these claims.

Meng ‘399 teaches a card edge connector assembly **10** with opposite-facing card edge connectors **14** and **16**. As noted in column 1 lines 10-11, the purpose of a card edge connector is to provide electrical connection between a mother board and a daughter board in a computer.

The crucial difference between the present invention and the teachings of Meng ‘399 is that one of the ports of the present invention is located at an exterior edge of the system board and faces outward, for the purpose of providing electrical connection between the system board and a peripheral device external to the system

that includes the system board. By contrast, when card edge connector assembly **10** of Meng is mounted on a mother board, neither of card edge connectors **14** and **16** is on an exterior edge of the mother board facing outward, because the daughter boards that are to be connected to card edge connector assembly **10** are supposed to be inside the system that includes the mother board. Thus, the present invention is not anticipated by Meng '399.

Furthermore, the present invention is not even obvious from Meng '399. There is neither a hint nor a suggestion in Meng '399 of using card edge connector assembly **10** for providing electrical connection to a peripheral device outside the system that includes the mother board, rather than to a daughter board inside that system.

While continuing to traverse the Examiner's rejections, Applicant has, in order to expedite the prosecution, chosen to introduce new claim 13 in order to clarify and emphasize the crucial distinctions between the present invention and the teachings of Meng '399. Specifically, claim 13 recites a system board comprising a connector with two opposite facing ports, one port that faces outward at an exterior edge of the system board and one port that faces inward to the interior of the system board. Most of the matter recited in claim 13 is recited in claim 6 as filed. That the outward-facing port is at an exterior edge of the system board while the inward-facing port faces the interior of the system board is supported in the specification in Figures 3A, 3B, 4 and 5. Figures 3A and 3B show connector **70** with opposite-facing USB ports **72** and **74**. Figure 4 shows the back plane of a motherboard **80** with connector **70** mounted thereon so that USB port **72** faces outward at an exterior edge (specifically, the back edge) of motherboard **80**. With USB port **72** facing outward at an exterior edge of

motherboard 80, USB port 74 necessarily faces inward to the interior of motherboard 80. Figure 5 shows motherboard 80 with flash memory 90 connected to USB port 74.

New independent claim 13 now feature language which makes it absolutely clear that one of the ports of the connector of the present invention faces outward at an exterior edge of the system board while the other port faces inward to the interior of the system board. Applicant believes that the new claim completely overcomes the Examiner's rejections on § 102(b) grounds.

With claims 1 and 5 now canceled, claims 3, 7 and 8 have been amended to depend from claim 13. Claim 3, and claim 4 that depends from claim 3, also have been amended to recite a “system board” instead of a “connector”, for consistency with claim 13. With claim 13 allowable in its present form, it follows that claims 3 and 7-9, that depend therefrom, also are allowable.

§ 102(b) Rejections – Chang ‘028

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3 under § 102(b) as being anticipated by Chang, US Patent No. 6,383,028. The Examiner’s rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 2 have been canceled, thereby rendering moot the Examiner’s rejection of these claims. As discussed above, claim 3 has been placed in condition for allowance by being amended to depend from new claim 13.

§ 103(a) Rejections – Meng ‘399

The Examiner has rejected claims 4 and 10-12 under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Meng ‘399. The Examiner’s rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 11 and 12 have been canceled, thereby rendering moot the Examiner’s rejection of these claims.

As discussed above, claim 3 has been placed in condition for allowance by being amended to depend from new claim 13. It follows that claim 4, that depends from claim 3, also is allowable.

As discussed above, claim 8 has been placed in condition for allowance by being amended to depend from new claim 13. It follows that claim 10, that depends from claim 8, also is allowable.

Objections

The Examiner has objected to an informality in claim 1. Claim 1 now has been canceled, thereby rendering moot the Examiner's objection.

Amendments to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the use of abbreviations in the specification that were not written out initially. The specification now has been amended so that all abbreviations are written out when first used. Two expressions that might appear to be abbreviations, "ATX" and "PS/2", actually are terms of art. Attached please find a definition of "ATX" dated July 16, 2001 and a definition of "PS/2" dated November 27, 1995. Both definitions are from the Free OLDLOC web site, <http://foldoc.doc.ic.ac.uk/foldoc/index.html>.

The Examiner has advised that a trademark should be capitalized and accompanied by the generic terminology. The specification includes two trademarks: "ASUS P4P800 Deluxe" and "DiskOnKey". Both are described by the appropriate generic terminology: the ASUS P4P800 Deluxe is a motherboard and the DiskOnKey is a flash memory device. The specification has been amended to indicate that "ASUS P4P800 Deluxe" is a trademark.

No new matter has been added.


Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to Figures 1A, 1B, 4 and 5 as too dark. Attached please find line drawings that replace Figures 1A, 1B, 4 and 5 as filed.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings as not showing features of the invention that are specified in the claims, to wit, the network router, the TV set top box and the mobile device recited in claim 10. The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed. It suffices to illustrate only one example of a claimed feature. The feature of the invention that is recited in claims 8-10 is a host device. Figure 4, by illustrating the connector of the present invention mounted in a computer system board, illustrates the computer embodiment of the host system that is recited in claim 9. Just as the Examiner did not object to the absence of a drawing illustrating an entire computer, so the Examiner should not object to the absence of drawings illustrating a network router, a TV set top box and a mobile device.

In view of the above amendments and remarks it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 13, and hence dependent claims 3, 4 and 7-10 are in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of allowance is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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ATX

<hardware, standard> An open PC motherboard specification by Intel.

ATX is a development of the Baby AT specification with the motherboard rotated 90 degrees in the chassis. The CPU and SIMM sockets have been relocated away from the expansion card slots meaning that all the slots support full-length cards. More I/O functions are integrated on the motherboard. As the longer edge of the board is now at the back of the chassis, there is more space for connectors; also, the I/O opening on the back panel of the chassis has been defined as double the previous height, allowing vendors to add extra on-board I/O functions over and above the standard.

Most Pentium Pro boards use this form factor.

As well as the motherboard size, layout, and placement, the ATX specification also includes requirements for power supply and fan specification and location.

The full size ATX board measures 305mm wide by 244mm deep. There is also a Mini-ATX form factor, 284mm by 208mm.

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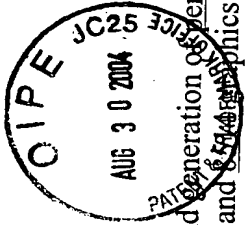
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ps/2

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PS/2



<computer> IBM's second generation of personal computers. The PS/2 series introduced three advances over the PC series: 3.5" 1.44 megabyte microfloppy disks, VGA and 80486 chips display standards, and the Micro Channel bus architecture. The 3.5" disks and VGA can be easily installed on other PCs and will become the standard for new compatible computers. The Micro Channel bus allows for multiprocessing and less aggravation, but cannot be retrofitted to older PCs.

PS/2 models 25 and 30 are ISA, other models have Micro Channel and ESDI.

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